

Appln No. 10/760,209
Amdt. Dated May 11, 2006
Response to Office Action of April 4, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of April 4, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the each of the printhead integrated circuits separately have nozzles formed therein for delivering printing fluid onto the surface of print media. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 7, line 28-page 8, line 12 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-6 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to, nor any new issues to the prosecution of, the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by previously cited Silverbrook in view of previously cited Silverbrook et al. and newly cited Volpe Jr. et al. (US 4,978,972), for at least the following reasons.

It is noted that the Examiner separately rejects dependent claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Silverbrook only. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is not proper without the Examiner's combination of Silverbrook et al. and Volpe used to reject independent claim 1, from which claim 5 depends.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead integrated circuits 51, where each printhead integrated circuit constitutes a printhead having printing nozzles formed therein (see page 7, line 28-page 8, line 12 of the present specification). Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify this arrangement of the present invention.

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The Examiner admits that neither Silverbrook not Silverbrook et al. disclose such a printhead module arrangement, and cites Volpe as purportedly teaching this arrangement of the present invention. However, Volpe merely discloses incorporating a number of printing element enablement circuits, such as integrated circuits 36, within a modular thermal print head 10 for a conventional reciprocal printer.

That is, the integrated circuits 36 of Volpe (used by the Examiner to provide the at least two printhead integrated circuits of the presently claimed invention) merely constitute drive electronics for the printing element 20, not printhead integrated circuits having ink ejection nozzles, as required by amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, the printing element of Volpe merely has electrically resistive elements 21, not ink ejection nozzles (see col. 4, lines 5-40 of Volpe).

Thus, there is no motivation from the disclosure of Volpe for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Examiner's combination of Silverbrook and Silverbrook et al. to arrange separate printhead integrated circuits within a printhead module as defined by the amended claimed invention.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook, Silverbrook et al. or Volpe, either taken alone or in combination.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

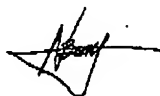
Very respectfully,

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